

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
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INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 5723

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, NU  
SUBJECT: UDEL'S SECOND ANNIVERSARY MEETING

SUMMARY: A CROWD OF 1,500 GATHERED IN MASAYA TO CELEBRATE THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANTI-SOMOZA COALITION UNION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERATION (UDEL). THE CROWD HEARD SPEECHES BY SEVERAL UDEL LEADERS AND THEN DISPERSED WITHOUT INCIDENT. PLANS FOR A CHALLENGE OF STATE OF SIEGE PROHIBITION OF OPEN MEETINGS COLLAPSED WHEN THE NATIONAL GUARD (GN) RESTRICTED ATTENDANCE BY TURNING BACK BUSES FROM OTHER AREAS. END SUMMARY

1. A CROWD OF ABOUT 1,500 GATHERED IN A SEMI-ENCLOSED AREA IN THE CITY OF MSAYA TO CELEBRATE THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE ANTI-SOMOZA COALITION OF DIVERSE OPPOSITIONIST GROUPS, THE UNION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERATION (UDEL). THE CROWED HEARD SPEECHES BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOCIAL CHISTIAN PARTY (PSC), THE MOSCOW-LEANING NICARAGUAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PSN), THE CONSTI-TUTIONAL LIBERAL MOVEMENT (SACASISTAS), THE INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY (PLI), AND BY UDEL PRESIDENT PEDRO J. CHAMORRO. THE SPEAKERS DENOUNCED THE SOMOZA REGIME, CALLED FOR AN END TO THE STATE OF SIEGE AND CENSORSHIP AND HAILED "THE UNITY OF THE POPULAR AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES" IN UDEL. REFERENCES TO THE UNITED STATES WERE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN, EVEN IN THE SPEECH OF PSN SECRETARY-GENERAL LUIS SANCHEZ SANCHO, ALTHOUGH THE PSC'S CESAR DELGADILLO AND CHAMORRO

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DENOUNCED CONDECA'S OPERATION AGUILA 6 IN HARSH TERMS. DELGADILLO,

WHOSE PSC HAS SPLIT OVER THE QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION IN UDEL, AND THE PSN'S SANCHEZ SANCHO STRESSED THE THEME OF POPULAR UNITY AGAINST THE SOMOZAS. SACASISTA LEADER PEDRO QUINTANILLA AND CHAMORRO DWELT ON THE INCAPACITY OF THE REGIME TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC STAGNATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION, CONCENTRATION OF WEALTH AND INADEQUATE SOCIAL SERVICES.

2. TOWARD THE END OF THE MEETING SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS BEGAN TO SHOUT: "TO THE STREET\* TO THE STREET\*", BUT CHAMORRO'S DEPUTY EDMUNDO JARQUIN TOOK THE MICROPHONE AND WARNED AGAINST "SOMOCISTA PROVOCATIONS" ADDING THAT THE GN WAS LOOKING FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO "REPRESS THE PEOPLE". JARQUIN LATER TOLD POLOFF THAT THEY HAD HOPED TO BRING 5,000 PEOPLE TOGETHER, BUT THAT THE GN HAD ONLY LET THREE BUSES THROUGH. HE SAID THAT TEN BUSES HAD BEEN TURNED BACK FROM MANAGUA ALONE, SIX FROM GRANDADA, THREE FROM CHINADEGA, AND SEVERAL FROM NINDIRI AND OTHER TOWNS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MASAYA. JARQUIN CONFIDED THAT THEIR PLAN HAD BEEN TO FILL THE YARD WHERE THE MEETING WAS BEING HELD AND OVERFLOW INTO THE STREET, TURNING THEIR SEMI-PUBLIC MEETING INTO A STREET MEETING AND THUS CHALLENGE THE STATE OF SIEGE PROHIBITION AGAINST STREET MEETINGS. THIS PLAN COLLAPSED WHEN THE GN RESTRICTED ATTENDANCE BY TURNING BACK BUSES FROM OTHER AREAS.

3. COMMENT: AS UDEL ENTERS THE THIRD YEAR OF ITS EXISTENCE, IT IS CLEAR THAT ITS MOST STRIKING ACCOMPLISHMENT HAS BEEN SURVIVAL. A HETEROGENOUS COALITION OF DIVERSE IDEOLOGICAL GROUPS, HELD TOGETHER BY LITTLE MORE THAN OPPOSITION TO SOMOZA, THE ORGANIZATION HAS NEVERTHELESS SURVIVED SERIOUS INTERNAL DISSENSION AS WELL AS THE CONSTRAINTS ON ITS ACTIVITIES IMPOSED BY THE STATE OF SIEGE AND CENSORSHIP. THE FUTURE OF UDEL, HOWEVER, IS UNCERTAIN. UDEL SPOKESMEN HAVE REPEATEDLY REJECTED PARTICIPATION IN THE 1981 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, WHICH THEY HAVE DENOUNCED IN ADVANCE AS A SOMOCISTA FARCE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN SPITE OF OCCASIONAL BEL- LIGERENT RHETORIC, UDEL HAS NEITHER THE MEANS NOR THE INTENTION OF ENGAGING IN POLITICAL VIOLENCE. JARQUIN TOLD POLOFF THAT HE DOES NOT THINK THAT THE ORGANIZATION WILL LAST BEYOND THREE OF FOUR MORE YEARS. WHETHER UDEL WILL BE ABLE TO OVERTHROW SOMOZA WITHIN THAT PERIOD BY MEANS OF "VIVIC ACTION" LEADING TO A GN COUP, AS JARQUIN HOPES, HOWEVER, REMAINS IMPROBABLE.

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